

FACULTY OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Thursday Noon Series

12:10 pm • WALTER HALL
EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1989

DOREEN KLASSEN
Steinbach Bible College

"THE POLITICS
OF
LOW GERMAN MENNONITE SONG"

Co-sponsored with the Institute for Canadian Music

Doreen Klassen is an anthropologist/ethnomusicologist specializing in Low German Songs of the Mennonites. Her Masters thesis, entitled "Singing Mennonite: Low German Songs Among the Mennonites of Southern Manitoba," was published by the University of Manitoba Press in the fall of 1988. Among her current projects is "Mennonite Music-Making in Canada, 1920-1970," for which she is collecting the autobiographies of Mennonite musicians from Ontario to British Columbia. She has been appointed editor of a revised International Songbook, which will be used by participants at the 1990 Mennonite World Conference in Winnipeg. She is also a member of Jereschte Tweebach, a vocal ensemble dedicated to singing the traditional Low German songs which she has collected.

At Steinbach Bible College, where she is chairman of the music department, Doreen Klassen teaches piano, piano pedagogy, music theory, and approaches to church music. In addition, she is chairman of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Arts Committee.

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